

STAFF EVALUATION
REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF
CONSTRUCTION PERMIT NOS. CPPR-108 AND CPPR-109
ALVIN W. VOGTLE NUCLEAR PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. 50-424 AND 50-425

INTRODUCTION

Georgia Power Company, Oglethorpe Power Corporation, Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia and the City of Dalton, Georgia, (collectively, the applicants) are the holders of Construction Permit Nos. CPPR-108 and CPPR-109 issued by the Atomic Energy Commission* on June 28, 1974 for the construction of Alvin W. Vogtle Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 (Vogtle Project). The Vogtle Project is under construction at a site located in Burke County, Georgia, approximately 26 miles south-southeast of Augusta, Georgia. In accordance with Section 185 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, 42 U.S.C. Section 2235, and in accordance with the Commission's regulations, 10 CFR Section 50.55, the Construction Permits state latest dates for the completion of construction. By letter dated April 28, 1982, the applicants advised the NRC staff that construction could not be completed by the latest dates specified, namely April 1983 for Unit 1 and April 1984 for Unit 2.

The applicants have requested in the April 28, 1982 letter that the Construction Permits, CPPR-108 and CPPR-109, be extended as follows:

CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION DATES

	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Unit 1	April 1983	March 1988
Unit 2	April 1984	September 1989

In accordance with 10 CFR Section 50.55(b), the staff, having found good cause shown, and for the reasons delineated in the remainder of this evaluation, is extending the construction completion dates as stated above.

The staff's evaluation follows.

SPECIFIED DELAYS

The applicants stated in their April 28, 1982 letter that the following factors have lead to the overall delay in the completion of construction for the Vogtle Project.

*Effective January 19, 1975, the Atomic Energy Commission became the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Permits in effect on that day were continued under the authority of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

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- (1) Following reactivation of the Vogtle Project in early 1976, the construction schedule was delayed approximately seven months until July 1976 due to extended negotiations required to consummate the sale of interests in the Vogtle Project to Oglethorpe Power Corporation, Municipal Electric Authority of Georgia and the City of Dalton, Georgia.
- (2) In 1977 the construction schedule was delayed for an additional twelve months due to reduced projected load growth and additional requirements related to physical separation criteria for the cable spreading room and related redesign of the control building, including necessary design and engineering.
- (3) During portions of 1978, 1979 and 1980, construction delays of approximately eighteen months resulted from difficulties encountered in concrete production, backfill placement and erosion control. First, concrete production was less than required, and placement times were longer than anticipated. Second, in November 1979 an abnormal rainfall occurred at the Vogtle site which caused erosion of some of the backfill related to structures north of the auxiliary building. A stop work order was issued so that essentially the only construction work which could continue was in the auxiliary building and the nuclear service cooling towers. This stop work order remained in effect during the development of corrective action plans which required extensive review and acceptance by the NRC prior to implementation. Work began again in January 1980, but in selected areas only, and it was not until May 1980 that work could be resumed in all areas of the Vogtle Project.

The applicants have requested the remaining extension of the completion dates as a result of a comprehensive assessment of the construction schedule as of May 1981 by a Task Force reporting to the Vogtle Project Management Board. The applicants have re-estimated the construction schedule based on new projections for materials and equipment, projected versus actual manpower experience, and increased regulatory requirements, including those arising out of lessons learned from Three Mile Island.

REASONABLE COMPENSATION TIME

We concur with the applicants that the Construction Permits should be extended from April 1983 to March 31, 1988 for Unit 1 and from April 1984 to September 30, 1989 for Unit 2 to account for the scheduled delays between 1974 and 1980 and the newly projected schedule for acquisition of materials and equipment, manpower requirements and compliance with recent regulatory requirements. We agree with the reasons for delay of the Vogtle Project identified by the applicants and the Task Force's reassessment of the construction schedule as of May 1981. We find that the construction completion dates of March 31, 1988 for Unit 1 and September 30, 1989 for Unit 2 are acceptable for the Vogtle Project.

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SIGNIFICANT HAZARDS CONSIDERATION

We find that because this request is merely for an extension of time to complete work already reviewed and approved, no significant hazards consideration is involved in granting the request. Thus, prior notice of this action is not required.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

For the reasons stated herein, the staff concludes that issuance of an Order extending the construction completion dates as previously stated for construction of Alvin W. Vogtle Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2, Construction Permit Nos. CPPR-108 and CPPR-109, is reasonable and so ordered.

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Dated: JUN 04 1982

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